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the Council to prove that the paper was anthropological, and it was not for him to show the contrary. He admitted that the science of human nature was very extended in its bearings, but that Society being devoted to the study of man, he contended that they ought not to spend their time in considering the astronomical views of any race 1000 years ago, and he could not see any anthropological bearing in such consideration.

Professor MACDONALD thought that Mr. Brookes had shown that the *onus probandi* lay with the Council and not on him. The President, however, had shown that the Council had taken a very fair way of ascertaining the fitness of the paper, and he did not find fault with them on that account, but he objected to their throwing the *onus probandi* on Mr. Brookes. He thought the paper was an important one in an anthropological point of view; and that the higher region of thought referred to stimulated discovery. Astronomy has ever had more hold on the lower classes in India than in the western part of the world, and he wished that a higher degree of astronomical knowledge was more widely diffused, and especially in this country. As to the reference which the discovery of astronomical truths had on their Scriptures in correcting errors, he thought that course of inquiry should be favourably received and encouraged in our own case. He regarded the paper as a valuable contribution to anthropology.

Major OWEN in reply to Mr. Brookes observed that the paper by the Baboo was no doubt astronomical, but he had brought it forward to show the change of ideas that was beginning to take place in the Hindoo mind. Any peculiarity in the form of the skulls of Hindoos was considered well deserving the attention of the Anthropological Society, and if they regarded with interest differences in the form of the skull between them and Europeans, why should they not also look with interest on the difference in their minds? The paper showed that the Hindoos have their own distinct and peculiar ideas, and that in their own peculiar way they have found that their Scriptures do not give a truthful account of natural phenomena, and must be altered. It was a great fact, that, in Benares, the principal seat of the Hindoo religion, a paper should have been read and published under the auspices of one of their learned societies, which threw doubt on the accuracy of the Sastras. He did not see that any objection could be raised to the paper in whatever light it was considered. With respect to Mr. Salmon's objection with regard to the apparent inconsistency of the statement, that if there were two ends to any idea, the Hindoo and European would take hold of it at the opposite extremities, he did not mean to assert that they would therefore differ in their conclusions. They might arrive at the same results but by different means.

On the Alleged Sterility of the Union of Women of Savage Races with Native Males, after having had Children by a White Man; with a few remarks on the Mpongwe Tribe of Negroes. By R. B. N. WALKER. Abstract. (The paper will appear at length in the *Memoirs*.)

He referred to the testimony of Count Strzlecki, who has asserted that

women of certain savage races who have cohabited with Europeans become sterile with men of their own race, and bases his statement on observations made by himself amongst some tribes of American Indians, Polynesians, and aboriginal Australians. Mr. Alexander Harvey had adopted and strenuously supported this theory; which Mr. Walker denied to hold good in at least one tribe of pure negroes, the Mpongwe of Gaboon. Few cross-breeds certainly exist there, the number not being more than fifteen. These half-breeds were the offspring of English (6), French (5), Germans (1), Spanish (1), Portuguese (1), the remaining one being either Spanish or Portuguese. Three several instances were cited by him of cases which invalidated Count Strzlecki's law. His experience with regard to the fertility of half-breeds amongst themselves was against the existence of such a condition, only one instance being known to him. The Mpongwe tribe on the sea-coast was fast becoming extinct, one-third of the tribe having been carried off by small-pox during the last year. The Adjomba nation, of which the Mpongwe tribe is an offshoot, is situated some seventy or eighty miles from the settlement at Gaboon. Mr. Walker was about to make some little stay in that country, which will be the first stage of his journey into Western Equinoctial Africa.

The thanks of the Society were given to Mr. Walker for his communication.

Mr. C. CARTER BLAKE observed, with regard to M. Broca's work, that it summed up the general results which had been arrived at on the subject, and pointed out the conclusions drawn from them before his time, to the effect that the first (European) male who cohabits with a negress, has influence on the offspring afterwards produced. He alluded to the experiments made by Lord Morton with a zebra and a horse, in confirmation of that opinion, and to John Hunter's analogous cases. With regard to the assumed law of Count Strzlecki on the subject, his results had been since "pooh, poohed," but were not so improbable as at first sight may be thought. It was asserted, that as regards the Australians, there was great probability in Count Strzlecki's opinion, and it was confirmed in some degree by what was observed in the lower animals.

Dr. BEIGEL considered that the principal point to be borne in mind in considering this subject, had been left out in the paper, viz., the state of the womb. Women were often met with who had borne children, and then ceased to propagate in consequence of some deformity which prevented it. In such cases, before any conclusions were drawn, it should be ascertained whether the womb was in a healthy state. In almost all women who had borne children, and who afterwards became sterile, he believed it would be found there was some peculiar mechanical condition which prevented conception. No allusion to the condition of the womb had been made in the paper, and no conclusions could be arrived at in any case, unless an examination had taken place to ascertain whether there were any cause to prevent conception.

Professor MACDONALD observed that it had been frequently said

that Australian women, after connection with Europeans, were subject to disease, and if that were the case, it was not unlikely that gonorrhœa might cause some stoppage in the womb. The impress of the first connexion, in certain cases in domestic animals, was known to have great effect. In sporting dogs, it was found to have an important effect. If a bitch has had a stray connexion, in all subsequent litters one or two of the mongrel breed will appear. With reference to the experiments of Lord Morton, he states that the sire of the first produce was a quagga, as the leg markings of the three foals were like those of a zebra, marking change of species.

Major OWEN said that it would be advisable to obtain from India some current data which might be procured from the half-caste families who, as a rule, intermarried; this would show whether such unions were prolific through several generations. Medical men and civil officers had the best opportunity of obtaining such information—genealogies in fact. It might be obtained from records and memory dating as far back as possible. We should be much indebted to any who would take up this subject and work it out faithfully to the full extent of their means of information.

Dr. LANGDON H. DOWN remarked, that he had always considered that a negro woman who had had fruitful connexion with an European, was rendered sterile in her subsequent connections with negroes, but he thought that further evidence was wanted on the subject.

Mr. MILLIGAN said he had known several instances which contradicted the assumed law of Count Strzlecki. In Tasmania, the natives told him there were many instances of women, who after having had connexion with Europeans, returned to their black husbands, and had children by them afterwards. In one case a woman had children first by a black man, then one, a girl, by a European, then more black children, and having again lived some time with another white man, she had a white child, also a girl; and lastly, having been removed to Hindois Island with the rest of the Aborigines of the island about 1830, she became the wife of another black man and bore to him one son. Mr. Milligan added that he had himself seen the two half-caste girls referred to, and also the black boy born last of all.

The PRESIDENT remarked that the value of Mr. Walker's paper consisted in its presenting inducements to travellers to investigate the question, which had been in dispute for twenty years. If their local secretaries, and others residing in those parts of the world where information on the subject could be obtained, would investigate the matter and give more reliable facts, they might arrive at the truth on that disputed point, but at present they were in want of satisfactory facts, which he hoped would in time be forthcoming.

Description of a Living Microcephale. By JOHN SHORTT, M.D., F.A.S.L.
Abstract. (The Paper will appear at length in the *Memoirs*.)

The individual description was the offspring of Maharatta parents, about sixteen years of age, four feet one inch in height, and weighing 54 lbs. avoirdupois. He is of a tolerably well-formed figure and pro-